

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Purpose of Scholarships

National studies and projections indicate that demand for librarians far exceeds supply. This is considered one of the most critical facts for library service at this time. Financial support for future librarians increases the professional library workforce by encouraging individuals who might otherwise not have the resources for higher education to become librarians. The Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships are designed to encourage professional librarianship in Missouri's libraries.

Further Information

The Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and class fees. Scholarship funds shall be paid directly to the financial aid office of the college or university in which the recipient is enrolled, where they shall be applied as anticipated financial aid on the recipient's account. Funds will only be available if the student is enrolled after the final drop date from class. The school shall credit the recipient's account with the amount awarded for the semester involved.

Scholarship applicants are encouraged to enroll full-time and complete their studies in a timely manner. However, the Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarships are also available to applicants who may be part-time students or completing part of their class work using distance-learning opportunities.

Requirements:

A candidate for a Missouri State Library Graduate Scholarship must:

- Be a Missourian based on at least one of the following criteria:
 - Current resident of Missouri
 - Currently employed in Missouri
 - Born in Missouri
 - Current Missouri taxpayer
 - Graduate of a Missouri high school
 - Graduate of a Missouri college or university
- Be admitted to an accredited graduate school in a Missouri university.

- Provide evidence of application to degree or certification program appropriate to professional librarianship, within the graduate school to which you have been admitted. The degree program must meet American Library Association or National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education specifications for professional librarianship and the certification program must meet Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education specifications for school librarian certification.
- Renewal applicants must have proof of maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.00 to be eligible.
- Make a commitment to work in a publicly funded Missouri library after graduation as a full-time employee. The work commitment is reflected mathematically as one month of work commitment for each credit hour of academic course work supported by the scholarship. For example, if a student receives scholarship support for a 12 credit hour semester, a 12-month work commitment would be required. A scholarship recipient who fails to fulfill this commitment will be expected to repay a prorated amount based on total scholarship money received and the months of work obligation not met.

Application Requirements

- Completed application form and essay sent to the Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee. Completed information may be faxed to 573-751-3612 but must be followed by original documents mailed and postmarked no later than November 7, 2003 for the Winter or Spring Semester 2004.
- Official transcripts sent from appropriate academic institutions to the Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee.
- Letters of recommendation sent from appropriate references to the Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee.

Selection Process

- The scholarships will be advertised by notifying all appropriate libraries and academic institutions in Missouri.
- The Scholarship Committee will screen and evaluate the applications and forward their recommendations to the State Librarian and the Secretary of State.
- The Scholarship Committee may elect to conduct phone or personal interviews with finalists.

- The Scholarship Committee reserves the right not to consider incomplete applications.
- Applicants are responsible for ascertaining that the Scholarship Committee has received references and transcripts.

Post Award

- The State Librarian will notify applicants of scholarship awards.
- The State Library may monitor the academic progress of any scholarship recipient during the semester for which the scholarship is awarded.
- The scholarship recipients are responsible for sending the State Library a copy of their grades at the end of the semester for which the scholarships are awarded.
- **Once the scholarship has been awarded, support may continue in a subsequent semester. Recipients who wish to request this support are responsible for notifying the state library of their academic achievement (GPA as stated in the guidelines document) and the number of credit hours to be carried in the semester for which continuing support is requested. Recipients should also be aware that scholarships are dependent upon appropriations and the discretion of the Missouri Secretary of State.**

MISSOURI STATE LIBRARY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

If you are applying for the continuation of a Missouri State Library scholarship previously awarded, you need submit only the following items:

- **Number of credit hours to be carried in the semester for which the continuation of support is being requested**
- **Latest transcripts (official copies from the institution)**
- **A cover letter updating your activities**

Name: _____

SSN: _____ Date: _____

Phone
Number: _____ Email: _____

Home (Permanent)
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Library Schools: Please list the graduate degree program, leading to a professional degree related to the library field, to which you have applied or intend to apply. It is not necessary to have been formally admitted at the time of application for the scholarship. However, you must be admitted and enrolled to activate the first disbursement of scholarship funds.

Institution: _____

Institution: _____

Institution: _____

Full Time _____ (Yes or No) Part Time _____ (Yes or No)

(Year in Graduate School) _____

GPA: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

List any Honors, Awards and Commendations received since entering college (state year and nature of honor or award)

Scholastic: _____

Extra Curricular (school related): _____

Civic (non-school related): _____

Participation in school, extracurricular and civic activities (where no office was held indicating organization and year - state only major activities)

Scholastic: _____

Extra Curricular (school related): _____

Civic (non-school related): _____

Employment (include library related employment and/or any summer internship experience). List up to three most recent.

Institution/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Nature of Work: _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Supervisor: _____

Institution/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Nature of Work: _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Supervisor: _____

Institution/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Nature of Work: _____

Dates of Employment: _____

Supervisor: _____

References: Please give contact information and in addition request letters of reference be sent directly to the Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee .

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Position: _____
Relationship to the applicant: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Position: _____
Relationship to the applicant: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Position: _____
Relationship to the applicant: _____

**Other pertinent
information:** _____

Essay: Write and enclose with this application, an essay of 300-500 words that addresses the following questions:

- Why are you interested in entering the library profession?
- What are your career goals?
- Why should you be awarded the scholarship?

CERTIFICATION AND RELEASE AUTHORIZATION: I certify this information is true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and understand that falsification of any statements will result in disqualification of the scholarship. I also understand that the scholarship is awarded subject to appropriations and at the discretion of the Missouri Secretary of State and I give permission to contact my school(s) or other references for verification of any information that I have submitted.

Applicant's Signature:

_____ **Date:** _____

Completed application (with essay) may be faxed to 573-751-3612 but must be followed by original documents mailed and postmarked no later than November 7, 2003 for the Winter or Spring Semester, 2004.

Official transcripts and letters of recommendation should be sent directly from institutions and references.

Mail to:

Missouri State Library Scholarship Committee
c/o Patrice Vale
Library Consultant for Continuing Education
Missouri State Library
600 W. Main, P.O. Box 387
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387